Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

The

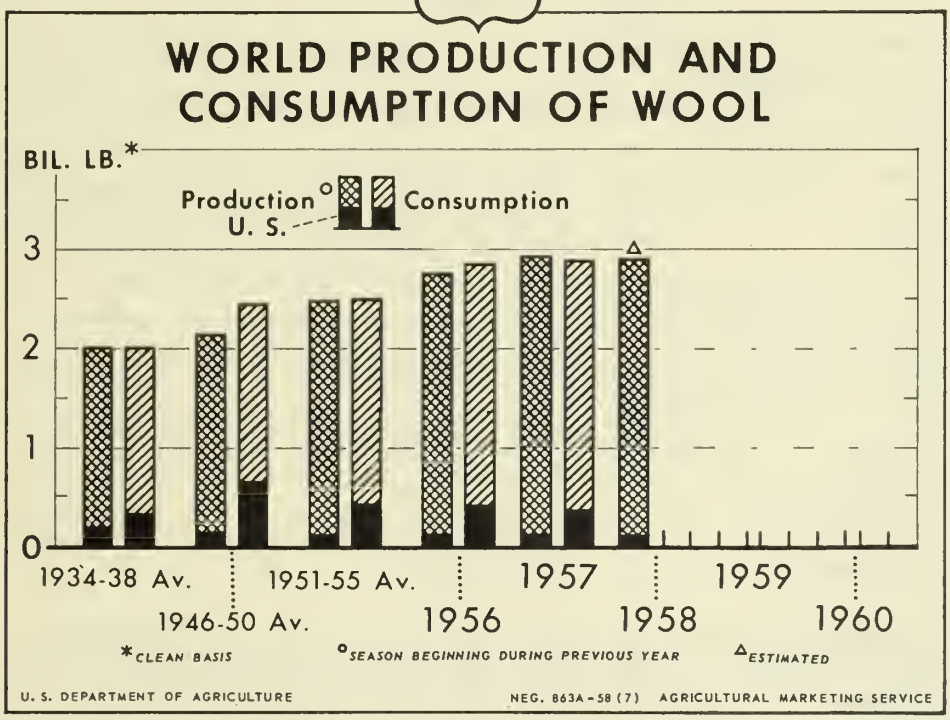
WOOL SITUATION

TWS-44

August 1958
FOR RELEASE
AUG. 12, P. M.

LIBRARY
RECORD
AUG 18 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AMS



The trend of world wool production during the postwar period has been upward, after a decline during the war years. Production increased each season from 1946-47 through 1956-57 but declined about 2 percent last season, owing largely to drought in Australia and the Union of South Africa.

The upward trend of world production has been reflected in consumption. The downward trend in the U. S. has been more than offset by an upward trend abroad. Consumption last year was 1 percent above 1956 and a record high. Mill use early this year, however, was substantially lower than a year earlier.

Published quarterly by
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I- Prices

Item	Unit	1957 Apr.	1957 May	1957 June	1957 July	1958 Apr.	1958 May	1958 June	1958 July	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Wool										
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	52.6	56.1	55.4	55.3	37.7	36.3	37.7	37.4	68
Parity price 1/		65.4	65.4	65.4	65.2	70.7	71.0	70.8	70.8	109
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	80	86	85	85	53	51	53	53	
Boston, clean basis 2/	Cents per pound									
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	164.5	167.5	167.5	167.5	113.5	115.0	115.0	113.0	67
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	154.5	158.5	158.5	159.4	107.5	107.5	107.5	107.5	67
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	132.5	133.7	134.0	134.0	96.5	95.0	95.0	95.0	71
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	122.5	124.5	125.0	126.0	91.5	90.6	92.5	92.5	73
Low 1/4 blood	do.	109.5	111.9	112.5	115.5	87.5	87.5	87.5	87.5	76
Common and braid	do.	101.5	101.5	101.5	101.5	82.5	82.5	82.5	82.5	81
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	163.0	176.5	176.9	177.5	121.5	120.0	120.0	118.0	66
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	141.2	148.1	150.5	151.7	102.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	68
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	118.1	127.0	127.1	127.2	84.7	83.6	88.2	87.5	69
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	112.8	121.4	122.2	122.8	80.5	80.1	85.5	83.9	68
Low 1/4 blood	do.	108.0	112.5	112.5	116.7	78.5	73.8	77.5	77.5	66
Common and braid	do.	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	76.5	73.8	77.5	77.5	82
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	163.8	181.5	185.0	185.0	117.5	117.8	120.0	118.0	64
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	143.8	157.5	160.0	160.0	107.5	108.1	110.0	109.0	68
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	133.8	143.5	145.0	145.0	92.5	93.1	95.0	95.0	66
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	162.5	164.5	167.5	167.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	124.5	74
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	157.5	159.5	162.5	162.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	119.5	74
64's, combing	do.	150.0	154.5	157.5	157.5	117.5	117.5	117.5	114.5	73
58's, 60's combing	do.	142.5	144.5	147.5	147.5	107.5	107.5	107.5	104.5	71
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	141.5	141.5	141.5	141.5	114.5	114.5	114.5	106.5	75
1's (56's)	do.	134.0	134.0	134.0	134.0	107.5	107.5	107.5	97.0	72
2's (50's)	do.	130.0	130.0	130.0	130.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	94.5	73
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	99.0	99.0	99.0	83.5	86
4's (44's)	do.	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	96.5	96.5	96.5	84.5	89
5's (40's)	do.	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	96.5	96.5	96.5	84.5	89
Manmade staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 3/	do.	29.0	29.0	29.0	29.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	4/	107
Acetate, 5 denier 3/	do.	32.0	32.0	32.0	33.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	4/	106
Nylon, 3 denier 5/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	100
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	100
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	100
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 5/	do.	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	116.0	116.0	116.0	116.0	104
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12 and 24 denier 5/	do.	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	105

1/ Effective parity prices as computed currently using base prices in effect and indexes for months indicated. These parity prices are the legally applicable parity prices for the following month. 2/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market. 3/ From Textile Organon. 4/ Not available. 5/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, August 6, 1958

CONTENTS

	Page
Summary	3
Prices in world markets much lower than year ago	6
1958 growers' prices averaging substantially lower than last year	9
Growers' prices averaged 53.7 cents for 1957 season	9
1957 Government wool payments equal to 15.5 percent of returns	9
World production down 2 percent in 1957-58; slight increase in prospect for 1958-59	11
Larger domestic shorn wool clip this year	14
1957-58 exports from Southern Hemisphere down from 1956-57	14
U. S. imports of dutiable wool down sharply	17
Imports of duty-free wool also down	18
First quarter 1958 world wool consumption below year earlier	18
Domestic mill use of apparel wool considerably lower than last year	18
Mill use of carpet wool down sharply this year	19
Woolen and worsted fabric production down substantially from early last year	25
Cuttings of men's tailored clothing substantially below last year	30
Cuttings of women's outerwear also below early last year	30
List of Tables	34

SUMMARY

Wool prices were relatively stable during the first 4 months of the current domestic marketing season, but were considerably lower than a year earlier, reflecting the easier world demand. Prices began the season at or near the lows of 12 months of decline in contrast with the early months of the 1957 season when they were at or near the peak of an 18-month advance.

Late in July, Boston quotations for domestic wools ranged from 18 to 36 percent or from 17.5 to 67.5 cents per pound, clean basis, below a year earlier. Quotations for most descriptions were about the same as or slightly higher than in early April.

Prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool during the first 4 months of the current marketing season averaged between 36.3 and 37.7 cents per pound, grease basis. They averaged between 14.9 and 19.8 cents lower than a year earlier and between 16.0 and 17.4 cents below the average of 53.7 cents for the entire 1957 season. Unless world demand strengthens considerably in the next few months, the 1958 season average is likely to be down sharply from last season and may be the lowest since the incentive program went into effect. The average total return per pound to the grower for wool sold would, of course, be the same as last season since the incentive level is unchanged at 62 cents.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1957 Feb.	1957 Mar.	1957 Apr.	1957 May	1958 Feb.	1958 Mar.	1958 Apr.	1958 May 1/	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds									
Dutiable 2/	do.	8.6	8.2	7.3	6.6	4.7	6.6	7.0		96
60's and finer	do.	4.9	4.3	3.3	2.3	3.0	4.1	3.2		97
56's - 60's	do.	.7	.7	1.1	.8	.3	.4	.7		64
50's - 56's	do.	.8	.9	.8	.8	.4	.5	.8		100
44's - 50's	do.	.2	.2	.3	.2	.2	.2	.4		133
40's - 44's	do.	.9	.5	.3	.4	.2	.3	.5		167
Not finer than 40's	do.	.9	1.2	1.1	1.6	.5	.8	1.1		100
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.2	.4	.4	.5	.1	.3	.3		75
Duty-free	do.	11.9	13.4	10.4	7.5	7.1	10.5	9.1		88
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	4.7	5.2	3.6	3.3	2.9	3.1	2.2		61
Not finer than 40's	do.	7.2	8.2	6.8	4.2	4.2	7.4	6.9		101
Accumulated since January 1										
Dutiable 2/	do.	18.4	26.5	33.8	40.4	10.4	17.0	24.0		71
60's and finer	do.	10.8	15.1	18.4	20.7	6.7	10.8	14.1		77
56's - 60's	do.	2.0	2.8	3.8	4.7	.8	1.1	1.8		47
50's - 56's	do.	1.5	2.4	3.2	4.0	.6	1.1	2.0		62
44's - 50's	do.	.4	.6	.9	1.0	.3	.5	1.0		111
40's - 44's	do.	1.3	1.7	2.1	2.4	.6	1.0	1.4		67
Not finer than 40's	do.	1.6	2.8	3.9	5.5	1.1	1.9	3.0		77
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.7	1.1	1.4	1.9	.2	.5	.7		50
Duty-free	do.	25.6	39.1	49.5	57.0	18.2	28.7	37.8		76
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	11.4	16.6	20.2	23.5	7.8	10.9	13.1		65
Not finer than 40's	do.	14.2	22.5	29.3	33.5	10.4	17.8	24.7		84
Imports for consumption, actual weight										
Dutiable	do.	13.0	11.8	10.4	9.1	6.9	9.6	10.4		100
Duty-free	do.	16.0	18.1	13.9	10.0	9.8	14.1	12.2		88
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/										
Per week, during month 4/										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	5,576	5,382	5,034	5,319	3,855	3,897	3,744	4,241	80
60's and finer	do.	2,947	2,750	2,603	2,594	1,891	1,960	1,885	2,083	80
50's up to 60's	do.	2,099	2,008	1,878	2,176	1,600	1,556	1,474	1,752	81
48's and coarser	do.	530	624	553	549	364	381	385	406	74
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	3,340	3,160	2,867	2,376	2,166	2,108	1,521	1,467	62
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	48.8	70.3	95.5	116.8	32.8	48.3	67.1	84.0	72
60's and finer	do.	25.4	36.4	49.4	59.8	16.7	24.6	34.0	42.3	71
50's up to 60's	do.	19.2	27.2	36.6	45.3	13.0	19.2	26.6	33.6	74
48's and coarser	do.	4.2	6.7	9.5	11.7	3.1	4.5	6.5	8.1	69
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	28.3	41.0	55.3	64.8	18.8	27.2	34.8	40.7	63
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards									
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel fabrics	do.		70.7				58.5			83
Government orders	do.		1.7				.4			24
Men's and boys' wear	do.		34.8				27.3			78
Women's and children's wear	do.		34.2				30.8			90
Non-appsrel fabrics	do.		3.1				2.7			87
Blanketing	do.		2.3				2.0			87
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.		.8				.7			88
Total woven fabrics	do.		73.8				61.2			83

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning systems and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Because of the decline in prices, payments to be made next year on 1958 marketings are expected to be considerably higher than for 1957 marketings and may be the largest under the National Wool Act of 1954. Also, marketings may be considerably larger than for each of the first 3 years because of the substantial quantity of 1957 clip wool carried over into the current season. The delayed sales were due to the weak demand and low prices during the late months of 1957 season, and to the expectation of some growers that the payment rate for 1958 would be higher and the total return per pound for their 1957 wool would be larger if sold during the 1958 marketing year.

The payment rates for shorn wool and unshorn lambs marketed last season are much lower than those for 1956, since the 1957 average price for shorn wool, 53.7 cents, was 9.4 cents higher than that for 1956. Shorn wool payments to individual producers for the 1957 marketing year amounted to 15.5 percent of their dollar returns from the sale of shorn wool. The rate for the 1956 marketing year was 40 percent. The 1957 payment rate on sales of unshorn lambs is 33 cents per hundredweight of live animal sold compared with 71 cents for the 1956 marketing year. Due to lower payment rates and smaller marketings, payments now being made on 1957 marketings are expected to total only about one-third those for each of the first 2 years of the payments program.

The 1957-58 world wool clip is now estimated at 4,900 million pounds, grease basis, about 2 percent smaller than that of 1956-57. The drop, the first after 9 successive increases, was concentrated in merino wool. This largely reflected drought conditions in Australia and the Union of South Africa. Production of crossbred wool continued to increase. An increase in the world clip of about 20 million pounds, a little less than 0.5 percent, has been forecast for 1958-59. The Australian clip is expected to be down again due to the drought last year and early this year.

Domestic production of shorn wool this year is estimated at 240 million pounds, grease basis, up 2 percent from last year. The increase reflects the flock expansion last year associated with improved range and pasture conditions, favorable prices, and the incentive payments. With the payments program and continued generally favorable feed conditions and lamb prices, some further increase in sheep numbers this year, and, hence, in shorn wool production next year is a likely prospect.

During the first quarter of this year, aggregate consumption of wool in the 10 countries which report quarterly to the Commonwealth Economic Committee was 16 percent below a year earlier. Consumption was up 1 percent in France but was down in each of the other countries. The seasonally adjusted rate of aggregate mill use in these 10 countries was down for the third quarter in a row and the lowest since the last quarter of 1954. Consumption of other fiber in the wool textile industries of these countries declined 9 percent. It appears highly probable that the first quarter rate of world wool consumption was below the level of current supply and that it continued below during the second quarter.

Domestic mill use of apparel wool this year is down for the second year in a row. The quantity consumed during January-June was 26 percent below last year. The lower rate of mill use largely reflects the general recession in textiles which started during 1956. Increased competition from manmade fiber and the long-term trend toward lighter-weight clothing also contributed.

After an advance of almost 2 years, the seasonally adjusted rate of mill use of apparel wool began to decline in mid-1956. It appears to have "bottomed-out" at about the turn of the year. Since then it has moved slowly upward.

Domestic mill use of carpet wool also is down this year. During January-June it was 35 percent below 1957.

With mill use down considerably from last year, imports of both dutiable and duty-free wool this year are down sharply from last year.

Survey of Recent Developments

Prices in World Markets Much Lower Than Year Ago

Prices of wool at the close of the 1957-58 British Dominion wool selling season late in June were between 25 and 30 percent lower than a year earlier. This reflected the easier world demand.

In May 1957, wool prices reached the peak of an advance of almost a year and a half. World demand then eased and prices moved downward through the rest of 1957. They improved some in January-February 1958 but then declined into early May. After an advance between early May and early June, they declined through the end of the season (tables 1 and 2). Closing prices of merino wools were slightly higher than in early May, but prices of crossbred wools were lower. The net declines in prices from May 1957 levels were more pronounced for crossbreds than for merinos. Production of crossbred wool increased last season, but production of merino wool declined.

In general, the movement of Boston quotations for domestic wools has been similar to those abroad. But during the early stages of the downward movement the decline here was a little slower than abroad, and the ratios of Boston quotations to prices abroad were a little higher than the average of recent years. However, by the beginning of the current domestic marketing season, declines here had exceeded those abroad and in recent months the ratios have been a little lower than the average.

Table 1 .--Price per pound of combing wool, clean basis (Bradford yield), at Australian auctions, by Bradford grades, 1955 to date

Year and month	70's		64's		60 s		58's		56's		50's	
	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1955												
January	154	142	132	127	120	116	110	---	102	---	89	---
February	156	145	135	130	123	117	113	---	104	---	92	---
March	152	143	133	130	123	118	115	---	107	---	94	---
April	143	137	130	127	121	116	114	---	107	---	94	---
May	143	138	130	128	120	116	112	---	104	---	91	---
June	144	138	130	126	120	115	112	---	103	---	91	---
July	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
August	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
September	128	120	110	106	100	95	93	90	89	85	81	80
October	127	120	110	106	99	95	92	88	86	82	76	75
November	128	120	110	106	98	95	90	87	83	80	75	74
December	129	121	111	110	99	97	92	90	85	84	79	78
1956												
January	130	123	113	111	101	99	95	93	88	87	81	80
February	131	123	115	111	101	100	94	92	87	86	80	79
March	130	122	113	111	101	99	91	88	85	83	78	77
April	135	128	118	115	104	102	95	92	87	85	80	78
May	142	136	127	124	113	109	100	97	90	87	81	79
June	149	143	139	133	124	117	109	104	94	90	82	80
July	147	141	132	127	116	110	103	97	90	87	78	76
August	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
September	157	152	144	140	128	125	115	110	101	97	87	84
October	157	150	139	135	124	119	113	108	99	95	88	86
November	163	154	144	139	129	124	115	111	101	98	90	88
December	168	159	149	145	134	129	120	114	108	104	95	92
1957												
January	165	158	149	145	135	130	121	116	110	106	97	94
February	169	163	155	151	141	138	130	124	117	113	102	99
March	167	160	152	148	139	135	128	122	116	112	102	99
April	166	160	155	151	145	140	133	126	119	116	105	102
May	171	165	162	157	152	146	139	133	126	122	111	108
June	172	164	159	150	147	138	132	124	122	113	104	101
July	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
August	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
September	155	145	140	134	131	126	123	118	114	110	103	100
October	146	138	132	127	123	118	116	111	109	103	96	93
November	135	129	125	119	116	111	110	104	105	98	93	89
December	122	118	114	109	106	102	102	96	95	89	84	80
1958												
January	124	119	116	111	109	104	102	97	96	90	83	79
February	130	124	121	116	112	108	103	99	97	93	83	80
March	119	113	110	106	103	99	94	90	89	84	74	72
April	120	114	110	106	102	98	93	88	84	79	72	69
May	117	111	107	103	99	95	89	86	83	79	72	69
June	119	113	111	105	102	97	93	87	85	80	75	71

From Wool Statistical Service, Australian Wool Bureau. Prices converted from pence (Australian) to cents at current rates of exchange.

Table 2.--Price per pound of fleece wools, clean basis (Bradford yield), at the London auctions, by Bradford grades, 1956 to date

Week ended 1/		Good medium fleeces		Fine crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
		64's-70's	58's-60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1956							
January	20	135.7	111.2	94.8	90.1	87.8	87.8
January	27	136.9	111.1	92.4	87.7	85.4	85.4
March	2	138.0	107.6	---	84.2	81.9	80.7
March	15	138.0	105.2	92.4	83.0	80.7	80.7
April	20	140.4	115.9	99.5	87.8	85.4	85.4
April	27	142.6	115.7	99.4	87.7	85.3	85.3
June	1	151.8	---	101.6	---	---	86.4
June	8	151.9	122.7	101.6	88.8	86.5	86.5
July	13	151.4	128.1	---	88.5	86.2	86.2
July	20	153.7	128.1	---	89.7	87.3	86.2
September	14	165.8	139.1	104.3	97.4	95.1	92.8
September	21	165.8	139.2	---	97.4	95.1	92.8
October	26	156.6	133.4	99.8	91.7	89.3	88.2
October	31	156.5	133.3	99.7	93.9	91.6	90.4
November	30	170.4	139.1	110.1	104.3	100.9	100.9
December	7	169.3	135.7	105.5	97.4	95.1	93.9
1957							
January	18	172.5	138.7	106.0	97.9	95.6	95.6
February	1	174.9	138.8	111.9	99.1	95.6	95.6
February	22	174.9	143.4	121.2	102.6	96.8	95.6
March	1	172.5	139.8	114.2	99.0	94.4	93.2
March	29	171.9	141.7	118.5	103.4	97.6	97.6
April	5	171.8	144.0	120.8	105.7	99.9	99.9
May	17	178.9	156.8	127.8	109.2	102.2	102.2
May	24	174.4	150.0	---	104.6	97.6	97.6
July	5	168.6	140.7	122.1	101.2	95.4	95.4
July	12	171.8	146.3	127.7	102.2	96.4	96.4
September	13	160.0	141.4	127.5	102.0	93.9	93.9
September	20	161.2	141.5	129.9	104.4	96.3	96.3
October	25	145.8	128.3	117.8	95.6	91.0	88.6
November	1	139.8	128.1	117.6	89.7	85.0	82.7
November	29	135.6	126.2	116.9	91.2	86.5	84.2
December	6	127.4	118.0	113.4	88.8	85.3	83.0
1958							
January	17	127.8	111.3	---	80.9	77.4	---
January	31	133.7	118.5	96.2	84.5	80.9	79.8
February	21	134.9	120.8	---	76.3	72.7	71.6
February	28	130.2	110.2	---	73.9	70.4	70.4
March	21	130.1	111.4	---	73.9	70.3	69.2
March	28	130.2	111.5	---	71.6	68.1	66.9
May	16	125.6	---	---	68.1	63.4	63.4
May	23	125.6	---	---	70.4	64.5	64.5
July	18	124.9	---	---	---	---	64.2

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau market reports. Prices converted from pence (United Kingdom) to cents at current rates of exchange.

Late in July, Boston quotations for domestic wools ranged between 18 and 36 percent or 17.5 and 67.5 cents per pound, clean basis, below a year earlier. Quotations for most descriptions were the same as or slightly higher than in early April (table 3).

1958 Growers' Prices Averaging Substantially Lower Than Last Year

Prices during the early months of the present domestic marketing season were at or near the lows of a year of decline. This is in contrast with the early months of the 1957 domestic marketing season when wool prices were at or near the peak of an 18-month advance. During the first 4 months of this season, prices received averaged between 14.9 and 19.8 cents per pound, grease basis, lower than a year earlier. They averaged between 16.0 and 17.4 cents below the average for the entire 1957 season.

Growers' Prices Averaged 53.7 Cents for 1957 Season

Prices received by domestic producers for shorn wool sold during April 1957-March 1958 averaged 53.7 cents per pound, grease basis. The average for the 1956 season was 44.3 cents.

The season average of prices received in the native sheep States, which account for most of the fleece wool, was 52.2 cents compared with 44.0 cents in 1956. Of these States, Kansas had the lowest average, 44 cents, and Virginia had the highest, 63 cents. The average for the 11 Western States, Texas, and South Dakota, which produce most of the territory wool, was 54.5 cents, up from 44.4 cents in 1956. Arizona had the lowest average, 43 cents. Oregon had the highest, 58 cents. The great variation among States reflects differences in the type of wool produced, in shrinkage, in marketing practices and costs, in time of marketing, and other factors.

Prices received averaged above a year earlier during each of the first 8 months of the season. Compared with the 1957 season average, the averages for May-August 1957 ranged between 0.6 and 2.4 cents above, while those for the other 8 months ranged between 1.1 and 12.0 cents below.

Prices received followed the movement of prices in world markets fairly closely. In May of last year, they were at the peak of an advance. Then, as world demand weakened, they began to decline. The decline extended through the end of the 1957 season and into the current season.

1957 Government Wool Payments Equal to 15.5 Percent of Returns

The higher average price received for shorn wool marketed last season is reflected in lower payment rates for shorn wool and unshorn lambs marketed last season. Shorn wool payments to individual producers for the 1957 marketing year amount to 15.5 percent of their dollar returns from the sale of shorn

Table 3.--Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended August 1, 1958 with comparisons

Description	Average 1947-49	1957 week ended Aug. 2	1958 week ended Apr. 25	1958 week ended Aug. 1	Percentage change week ended Aug. 1 from: Average 1947-49	Aug. 2 1957	Apr. 25 1958
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	167.5	115.0	112.5	-25.8	-32.8	-2.2
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	160.0	107.5	107.5	-21.6	-32.8	0
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	134.0	95.0	95.0	-12.9	-29.1	0
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	127.5	90.0	92.5	-7.5	-27.5	+2.8
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	120.0	87.5	87.5	-2.7	-27.1	0
Common and braid	83.5	101.5	82.5	82.5	-1.2	-18.7	0
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	177.5	120.0	117.5	-24.0	-33.8	-2.1
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	152.5	102.5	102.5	-22.1	-32.8	0
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	127.5	82.5	87.5	-15.2	-31.4	+6.1
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	124.0	80.0	83.5	-13.9	-32.7	+4.4
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	118.5	77.5	77.5	-1.2	-34.6	0
Common and braid	73.4	95.0	77.5	77.5	+5.6	-18.4	0
Original bag							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	185.0	117.5	117.5	-22.1	-36.5	0
8 months (1 inch and over)	121.0	160.0	107.5	107.5	-11.2	-32.8	0
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	145.0	92.5	95.0	-14.3	-34.5	+2.7

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

wool during the 1957 marketing year. The rate of 15.5 percent is the amount needed to bring the average return per pound up to the incentive level of 62 cents. The rate for the 1956 marketing year was 40 percent. The 1957 payment rate on sales of unshorn lambs to compensate for the wool on them is 33 cents per hundredweight of live animal sold. The rate of payment for the 1956 marketing year was 71 cents.

Deductions of 1 cent per pound from shorn wool payments and of 5 cents per hundred pounds of liveweight from lamb payments are made for the advertising, promotion, and related market development activities on wool and lamb carried on by the American Sheep Producers Council, Inc. These promotion deductions were approved by producers in a referendum in 1955.

Payments for the first two years of the incentive program amounted to 109.5 million dollars, consisting of 57.6 million for the 1955 marketing year and 51.9 million for 1956 (table 4). The total for 1957 is not yet known, but with the much lower payment rates and substantially smaller marketings, it is expected to be roughly one-third the totals for each of the first two years. A reasonable estimate appears to be 15 to 20 million dollars.

World Production Down 2 Percent in 1957-58; Slight Increase in Prospect for 1958-59

The first Foreign Agricultural Service estimate of the 1958-59 world wool clip is 4,920 million pounds, grease basis, up 20 million pounds or a little less than 0.5 percent from the revised estimate for 1957-58 (table 5). But it is 65 million pounds below the record high of 1956-57. The estimate for 1958-59 includes the 1958 clips of producing countries in the Northern Hemisphere and the 1958-59 clips of the Southern Hemisphere.

An increase of 32 million pounds is indicated for the U.S.S.R. Smaller increases are in prospect for a number of countries, including New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, and the United States. The Australian clip is expected to be smaller this season for the second year in a row due to drought in 1957 and early 1958.

The revised total for 1957-58, 4,900 million pounds, is about 85 million pounds or 2 percent smaller than the 1956-57 clip. The decline last year, the first after 9 successive increases, was largely a reflection of drought conditions in Australia and the Union of South Africa. Since these two countries produce mainly merino wool, the 1957-58 decline in the world total was concentrated in merino wool; production of crossbred wool continued to increase.

Table 4.--Payments under the National Wool Act of 1954

Marketing year	Marketings covered by payments: Shorn wool	Marketings covered by payments: Unshorn lambs	Incentive level	Average price received 1/	Payments: Rate: Shorn wool 2/	Payments: Rate: Unshorn lambs 3/	Payments: Amount 4/: Shorn wool	Payments: Amount 4/: Unshorn lambs	Payments: Amount 4/: Total	70 percent of specific duties 5/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Ct.	Ct.	Pct.	Ct.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.
1955	260.2	981.8	62	42.8	44.9	77	50.0	7.6	57.6	31.5
1956	6/254.3	6/1,277.1	62	44.3	40.0	71	7/44.0	7/7.9	51.9	28.2
1957			62	53.7	15.5	33				
1958			62							

1/ Average price received by growers for shorn wool sold during the marketing year.

2/ Percentage needed to bring the average return per pound up to the incentive level.

3/ Per hundredweight of unshorn lambs sold.

4/ Payments made after the close of the marketing year.

5/ The National Wool Act of 1954 limits the accumulated total of payments under the Act on any date to 70 percent of the accumulated total, as of the same date, of gross receipts from specific duties on wool and wool manufactures collected on and after January 1, 1953. The accumulated reserve as of April 1, 1955, was 68.7 million dollars.

6/ Unadjusted for weight of unshorn lambs purchased.

7/ Through May 31, 1958.

From Livestock and Dairy Division, Commodity Stabilization Service.

Table 5 .--Production of wool, grease basis, in specified countries and world, 1952 to date

Continent and country	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
North America							
United States 2/	266.9	274.5	279.3	275.7	279.1	269.0	---
Total North America 3/ 4/ 5/	290.0	295.0	330.0	325.0	320.0	310.0	320.0
Europe							
United Kingdom	102.0	105.0	111.0	104.0	104.6	112.4	115.0
France	48.5	54.0	56.0	56.0	60.0	61.6	63.5
Spain	93.0	94.0	88.2	79.4	83.8	75.0	77.2
Italy	35.0	33.7	32.8	30.9	30.9	30.6	30.5
Total West Europe 3/ 5/	370.0	370.0	385.0	365.0	370.0	375.0	380.0
Bulgaria	29.3	28.1	31.4	31.7	33.1	30.0	30.0
Hungary	9.0	9.4	11.0	12.8	13.2	13.0	13.0
Poland	6.0	14.8	19.4	21.7	21.5	22.0	22.0
Rumania	36.7	40.9	42.3	45.7	43.0	40.0	40.0
Yugoslavia	33.2	34.6	36.7	35.8	32.8	32.7	32.7
Total East Europe 3/	130.5	144.1	157.1	165.0	160.0	155.0	155.0
Total Europe 3/ 5/ 6/	500.0	515.0	540.0	525.0	530.0	525.0	535.0
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 6/	410.0	453.0	479.0	470.0	497.0	518.0	550.0
Asia							
China (Mainland) 7/	88.0	94.0	96.0	99.0	105.0	107.0	110.0
Iran	36.6	37.5	38.6	43.0	41.9	43.0	44.0
Iraq	32.0	32.5	33.0	25.0	26.0	28.4	29.0
Syria	19.6	20.3	20.5	19.4	20.7	22.0	22.0
Turkey	77.9	81.6	79.7	78.8	85.1	83.8	79.4
India	51.0	72.0	70.0	72.0	72.0	74.0	74.0
Pakistan	30.0	30.0	28.0	29.0	29.5	29.5	29.5
Total Asia 3/ 5/	390.0	440.0	440.0	430.0	445.0	450.0	455.0
South America							
Argentina	407.0	400.0	364.0	363.0	392.0	408.5	408.0
Brazil	50.7	52.5	60.6	60.7	62.0	64.0	66.1
Chile	44.1	39.7	39.7	46.0	46.3	48.0	48.0
Peru	19.8	20.1	20.3	23.6	20.7	20.0	20.0
Uruguay	189.8	202.0	198.0	172.0	188.9	209.0	210.0
Total South America 3/ 5/	730.0	730.0	700.0	680.0	725.0	765.0	770.0
Africa							
Algeria	28.0	29.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	27.0	27.0
Morocco	36.0	31.5	36.4	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.0
Union of South Africa	266.0	289.0	291.0	314.0	321.0	310.0	315.0
Total Africa 3/ 5/	355.0	380.0	380.0	400.0	410.0	400.0	405.0
Oceania							
Australia	1,281.1	1,246.0	1,283.0	1,410.0	1,565.0	1,428.0	1,386.0
New Zealand	418.0	426.0	455.0	462.0	491.0	497.0	505.0
Total Oceania 3/ 5/	1,700.0	1,670.0	1,745.0	1,870.0	2,055.0	1,960.0	1,955.0
Total world 4/ 5/	4,400.0	4,520.0	4,615.0	4,710.0	4,985.0	4,900.0	4,920.0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Weight of shorn and pulled wool as reported by Crop Reporting Board, AMS. 3/ Includes other countries not shown in table. 4/ Includes U.S. pulled wool production at its greasy shorn equivalent weight. 5/ Rounded to fives of millions. 6/ Based on present boundries. 7/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces), Manchuria, Jehol, Sinkiang (Turkestan), and Tibet.

Compiled from reports of the Foreign Agricultural Service and of Agriculatual Estimates Division, AMS.

Larger Domestic Shorn Wool Clip This Year

Production of shorn wool this year is estimated at 240 million pounds, grease basis, 2 percent more than in 1957 (table 6). The increase reflects the flock expansion last year associated with improved range and pasture conditions, favorable prices, and incentive payments.

The number of sheep shorn is estimated at 29.4 million head, compared with 28.5 million head in 1957. The average fleece weight is 8.17 pounds, compared with 8.26 pounds in 1957.

Production in the 35 native sheep States continued the upward trend which started in 1950 and is put at 76 million pounds, 2 percent more than in 1957 (table 7). The increase over last year reflects an increase of 4 percent in the number of sheep shorn. The average fleece weight was 7.49 pounds, about 2 percent lighter than last year.

The quantity of wool shorn in the 13 Western sheep States (11 States in the Western Region, South Dakota, and Texas) is estimated at 164 million pounds, 2 percent more than in 1957 (table 7). The number shorn is up 3 percent from last year. The average fleece weight is 8.53 pounds, compared with 8.59 pounds last year.

With continued generally good range and pasture conditions, favorable lamb prices, and the incentive program, some further increase in sheep numbers this year and, hence, in shorn wool production next year is a likely prospect.

1957-58 Exports From Southern Hemisphere Down From 1956-57

Total exports from the 5 major surplus producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere were smaller than a year earlier for those months of the 1957-58 season for which information is available. The decrease reflects smaller total supplies and the holding back of some wool due to the decline in prices and disputes over "aforo" values in the 2 South American countries.

Exports are down for all of the 5 countries except New Zealand(table 8). Smaller exports from Australia and the Union of South Africa are associated with smaller clips in those countries. Supplies are larger in both Argentina and Uruguay due to larger clips and an increase in the carryover, but exports have been held back due to the decline in prices in world markets and disputes over the "aforo" values-fixed minimum prices set by the governments in order to determine the amount of exchange that must be surrendered by the exporter to the official exchange market. In order to facilitate the sale of its wool accumulation, Argentina abolished the "aforos" for wool exports effective August 1. Also, exporters were granted a split exchange of 65 percent of the official rate and 35 percent of the free-market rate for greasy wool and of 50 percent of the official rate and 50 percent of the free-market rate for scoured and carbonized wool. The official rate of exchange is 18 pesos to the dollar, and the current free-market rate is about 42 pesos to the dollar.

Table 6.- Number of sheep and lambs shorn, weight per fleece, shorn wool production, and price per pound received by farmers, United States, 1940-58

Year	Sheep and lambs shorn 1/	Weight per fleece 2/	Shorn wool production	Price per pound 3/
	Thousands	Pounds	Thousand pounds	Cents
1940	46,313	8.03	372,014	28.4
1941	47,722	8.12	387,520	35.5
1942	49,287	7.88	388,297	40.1
1943	47,892	7.91	378,843	41.6
1944	43,165	7.84	338,318	42.3
1945	38,763	7.95	307,976	41.9
1946	34,647	8.11	280,908	42.3
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425	42.0
1948	28,649	8.09	231,770	49.2
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899	49.4
1950	26,380	8.22	216,944	62.1
1951	27,347	8.34	228,091	97.1
1952	28,051	8.32	233,309	54.1
1953	27,845	8.34	232,258	54.9
1954	27,692	8.52	235,807	53.2
1955	27,383	8.55	234,058	4/ 42.8
1956	28,502	8.37	238,569	4/ 44.3
1957	28,508	8.26	235,366	4/ 53.7
1958	29,418	8.17	240,446	---

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards. 2/ For Texas and California the weight per fleece is the amount of wool shorn per sheep and lamb during the year. 3/ Average prices for 1943 and later years are for the marketing season April-March; average prices for earlier years relate to the calendar year. 4/ Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to incentive level of 62 cents per pound.

Table 7.--Number of stock sheep, number of sheep shorn, and shorn wool production, Native or fleece wool States and Western sheep States, 1949 to date

Year	"Native" or "fleece" wool States			Western sheep States 1/		
	Stock sheep on January 1	Sheep shorn	Shorn wool production	Stock sheep on January 1	Sheep shorn	Shorn wool production
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousand pounds	Thousands	Thousands	Thousand pounds
1949	7,605	7,503	55,104	19,33	18,879	157,795
1950	7,428	7,569	56,317	18,754	18,811	160,627
1951	7,807	8,063	60,734	19,444	19,284	167,510
1952	8,440	8,830	65,952	19,504	19,221	167,357
1953	8,678	8,929	67,130	18,915	18,916	165,128
1954	8,608	8,805	66,803	18,471	18,887	169,004
1955	8,673	8,708	66,999	18,464	18,675	167,059
1956	8,867	9,221	71,516	18,145	19,281	167,053
1957	9,129	9,732	74,070	17,409	18,776	161,296
1958	9,520	10,130	75,870	17,870	19,288	164,576

1/ Includes South Dakota, Texas, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon and California.

Table 8.--Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58 seasons through May 1/

Exporting country	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Australia	1,057	1,193	1,095
New Zealand 2/	294	311	312
Union of South Africa	244	238	207
Argentina 3/	208	192	105
Uruguay	135	84	67

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa, and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.

2/ Through March.

3/ Through June.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

U. S. Imports of Dutiable Wool Down Sharply

U. S. imports of dutiable wool for consumption during January-April of this year amounted to only 24 million pounds, clean content, compared with 34 million pounds in 1957 and 48 million pounds in 1956. The lower imports reflect the reduced rate of mill use. Except for last September, imports have been below a year earlier each month since mid-1956 when the decline in mill activity began. All grade categories shared in the decline.

Imports of Duty-free Wool Also Down

U. S. imports of duty-free wool for consumption amounted to 38 million pounds, clean content, during January-April, 12 million less than during the corresponding months of last year. The drop reflects the lower rate of carpet mill activity.

Under the Tariff Act of 1930, "named" wools and other wools not finer than 40's are enterable free of duty if for use in the manufacture of floor coverings and certain other specified items. Public Law 85-418, recently enacted, extends the duty-free status, effective from July 18, 1958 through June 30, 1960, to wool finer than 40's but not finer than 46's imported for use in the manufacture of these specified items.

First Quarter 1958 World Wool Consumption Below Year Earlier

During the first quarter of this year, aggregate mill use of wool in the 10 countries which report quarterly to the Commonwealth Economic Committee was 16 percent below a year earlier. Consumption in France was 1 percent above a year earlier but the other 9 countries had declines ranging from 6 percent in Sweden and Italy to 34 percent in the Netherlands. Consumption in the United States was down 32 percent. The seasonally adjusted rate of aggregate consumption in the 10 countires was down for the third quarter in a row and the lowest since the last quarter of 1954.

Use of other fiber by the wool textile industries of these countries was down 9 percent from a year earlier, somewhat less than use of wool. Use was down in all except France, where it was up 13 percent. The declines ranged from 7 percent in Sweden to 22 percent in Belgium.

Domestic Mill Use of Apparel Wool Considerably Lower than Last Year

Use of apparel wool by domestic woolen and worsted mills during January-June amounted to 103 million pounds, scoured basis, 35 million pounds, or 26 percent below a year earlier. The drop largely reflects the general decline in textile activity and fiber use which started in 1956. Increased competition from manmade fiber and the long-term trend toward lighter-weight clothing also contributed.

After an advance from late 1954 until mid-1956, the seasonally adjusted rate of mill use of apparel wool began to decline. Apparently it was at the low of the decline at about the turn of the year. It has moved slowly upward since. In June it was 13 percent lower than a year earlier and 16 percent below June 1956.

Table 9.--Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1950 to date

Item	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957 2/	1958 2/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Production 1/	2,238	2,330	2,356	2,551	2,568	2,622	2,772	2,931	---
Consumption	2,640	2,291	2,372	2,657	2,564	2,627	2,862	2,891	---

1/ Production during the season beginning during the previous calendar year.
2/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

During January-May, the use of other fiber in woolen spinning of yarn other than carpet and in the production of top was down 11 million pounds or 9 percent, somewhat less than the decline in use of wool. Use of noncellulosic manmade fiber gained 11 percent, but consumption of rayon and acetate dropped 14 percent, reducing total use of manmade fiber 1 million pounds or 2 percent. Use of other fiber, mostly reused and reprocessed wool, was about 14 percent lower than last year. The net result was a decline of 19 percent in the amount of fiber used in woolen spinning of yarn other than carpet and in the production of top.

The lower level of activity extended to both topmaking and woolen spinning (table 14). However, the decline in the use of fiber in topmaking was considerably greater than the decline in woolen spinning. During January-May, 33 percent less wool was used in the production of top than a year earlier; use of all fiber was down 26 percent. Consumption of wool in woolen spinning was 24 percent below 1957; use of all fiber was down 15 percent.

Percentagewise, the decline early this year relative to last year was about the same for all of the wool grade categories. As a result, each category accounted for about the same proportion of the total as last year (table 15).

Mill Use of Carpet Wool Down Sharply This Year

Domestic woolen mills used 47 million pounds, scoured basis, of wool in the spinning of carpet and rug yarn during January-June. This was about 26 million pounds or 35 percent less than in 1957. The drop this year was the second in succession.

Table 10.--Average weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950 to date

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,016	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,652	4,916	4,894	5,476	5,851	5,570	5,271	5,926	4,881	4,962	4,685	4,520
Carpet	2,514	2,500	2,389	2,346	2,093	1,793	1,370	2,296	2,300	2,365	2,274	2,214
Total	7,166	7,416	7,283	7,822	7,944	7,363	6,641	8,222	7,181	7,327	6,959	6,734
1955												
Apparel	5,279	5,673	5,390	5,586	5,751	5,282	5,046	5,721	5,066	5,621	5,570	5,098
Carpet	2,546	2,540	2,541	2,555	2,585	2,251	1,655	2,629	2,650	2,976	2,893	2,775
Total	7,825	8,213	7,931	8,141	8,336	7,533	6,701	8,350	7,716	8,597	8,463	7,873
1956												
Apparel	6,171	6,405	5,865	6,255	6,143	5,569	5,214	5,966	5,111	5,921	4,995	5,175
Carpet	3,213	3,362	2,898	3,037	2,863	2,363	1,787	3,044	2,685	3,206	2,309	2,682
Total	9,384	9,767	8,763	9,292	9,006	7,932	7,001	9,010	7,796	9,127	7,304	7,857
1957												
Apparel	5,303	5,576	5,382	5,034	5,319	5,374	4,217	4,798	4,558	3,635	3,388	3,222
Carpet	2,996	3,340	3,160	2,867	2,376	2,054	1,687	2,431	2,375	2,374	2,030	1,895
Total	8,299	8,916	8,542	7,901	7,695	7,428	5,904	7,229	6,933	6,009	5,418	5,117
1958												
Apparel	3,467	3,855	3,897	3,744	4,241	4,651						
Carpet	2,024	2,166	2,108	1,521	1,467	1,625						
Total	5,491	6,021	6,005	5,265	5,708	6,276						

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 11.--Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed on the worsted system, United States, by months, 1951 to date 1/

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1951	84.7	86.0	84.4	88.1	87.8	87.2	85.4	86.2	86.9	84.8	82.5	83.2	85.8
1952	85.5	84.4	82.5	85.4	85.6	86.7	89.6	87.6	88.2	87.6	86.5	84.8	86.4
1953	86.2	85.3	89.2	88.7	89.3	87.9	91.2	89.9	90.8	89.2	86.2	88.6	88.6
1954	86.7	87.9	86.7	87.8	88.1	88.4	89.7	88.5	87.8	83.5	86.0	88.1	88.5
1955	87.4	88.1	88.4	86.9	85.1	86.5	87.8	86.8	87.4	88.6	89.9	88.7	87.6
1956	88.9	88.5	88.4	88.1	87.8	89.5	89.6	88.4	90.3	89.8	89.6	89.0	89.0
1957	89.7	89.2	86.1	86.9	86.4	86.8	88.0	83.8	84.6	82.5	85.7	81.8	86.3
1958	86.7	83.8	83.2	82.6	82.9								
Manmade fiber 2/ 3/													
1951	4.4	3.9	3.7	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.5	3.3	3.2
1952	3.3	3.4	4.3	3.3	2.4	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.1	2.4	2.8	3.0	2.9
1953	8.6	8.3	7.3	7.2	6.0	6.5	4.6	5.8	5.5	5.9	6.6	4.3	6.5
1954	6.2	6.0	6.5	5.8	5.6	5.8	4.9	5.0	6.6	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.4
1955	6.3	5.4	6.0	6.4	6.8	6.7	6.8	7.5	6.8	5.8	4.8	6.3	6.3
1956	6.5	6.0	5.8	6.1	6.1	5.1	4.6	5.4	5.4	6.1	6.3	6.2	5.8
1957	5.7	6.5	8.2	8.1	7.8	8.2	7.7	10.1	9.9	11.1	8.7	11.3	8.4
1958	8.7	8.9	9.0	9.8	7.7								
Other fiber 2/													
1951	10.9	10.1	11.9	8.8	8.8	9.8	11.7	11.6	10.8	12.9	15.0	13.5	11.0
1952	11.2	12.2	13.2	11.3	12.0	10.4	7.9	9.5	9.7	10.0	10.7	12.2	10.7
1953	5.2	6.4	3.5	4.1	4.7	5.6	4.2	4.3	3.7	4.9	7.2	7.1	4.9
1954	7.1	6.1	6.8	6.4	6.3	5.8	5.4	6.5	5.6	10.4	8.4	6.5	6.1
1955	6.3	6.5	5.6	6.7	8.1	6.8	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.0	6.1
1956	4.6	5.5	5.8	5.8	6.1	5.4	5.8	6.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.8	5.2
1957	4.6	4.3	5.7	5.0	5.8	5.0	4.3	6.1	5.5	6.4	5.6	6.9	5.3
1958	4.6	7.3	7.8	7.6	9.4								

1/ Consumption on the worsted system is taken as the sum of top and noil combed.
2/ Prior to January 1953, man-made fibers other than rayon and acetate were included in "other fiber."
3/ Does not include top converted from tow without combing.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 12.- Percentage distribution of production of top by fiber content, United States, by months, 1956 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
	Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep												
1956	77.1	76.1	76.8	73.4	71.9	74.9	73.8	72.3	77.8	76.0	76.8	75.2	75.2
1957	77.4	76.5	71.2	70.2	70.8	70.4	71.2	65.4	68.4	64.5	65.8	67.5	70.4
1958	70.5	66.9	65.7	64.1	64.8								
	Manmade fiber 1/												
1956	19.0	19.4	18.3	21.9	23.2	20.7	21.5	22.7	18.8	20.7	19.7	20.9	20.5
1957	18.8	19.9	24.4	25.9	24.6	25.7	25.4	29.9	27.3	30.7	30.0	27.0	25.4
1958	25.8	26.2	28.1	30.2	28.1								
	Other fiber												
1956	3.9	4.5	4.9	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.7	5.0	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.9	4.3
1957	3.8	3.6	4.4	3.9	4.6	3.9	3.4	4.7	4.3	4.8	4.2	5.5	4.2
1958	3.7	6.9	6.2	5.7	7.1								

1/ Top combed and top converted from tow without combing.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 13.--Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed for the spinning of yarn (except carpet) on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1951 to date

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1951	35.3	36.7	39.6	41.7	42.0	42.0	46.5	45.5	45.9	47.1	45.1	45.2	42.5
1952	43.4	42.2	42.3	41.6	42.0	41.2	41.9	43.4	42.7	43.8	44.2	43.8	42.7
1953	43.6	46.1	45.3	47.9	45.1	44.0	42.3	45.6	47.4	46.8	46.7	45.8	44.7
1954	45.4	42.8	43.4	43.2	43.2	42.3	41.0	41.8	43.6	43.2	44.0	42.9	43.0
1955	41.9	42.0	41.4	41.1	41.9	40.2	40.3	39.2	39.3	38.2	39.8	40.1	40.4
1956	39.8	39.1	40.0	40.4	38.9	40.2	39.4	39.0	38.9	39.1	40.4	40.5	39.6
1957	39.2	39.5	39.7	38.2	37.2	37.1	36.1	35.1	35.2	34.4	31.7	33.1	36.6
1958	36.4	35.3	34.1	34.3	34.6								
Other wool, reprocessed wool, and reused wool 1/													
1951	48.3	45.5	42.8	44.3	42.5	43.5	40.3	40.8	41.6	41.2	43.1	42.4	43.2
1952	43.8	43.6	42.0	42.6	42.4	45.7	46.2	42.6	43.0	42.2	41.5	41.9	43.2
1953	43.1	40.6	40.1	37.0	41.2	42.2	44.6	40.1	38.4	38.5	36.6	40.2	41.3
1954	40.6	41.6	41.0	41.0	42.5	44.7	45.5	42.5	41.1	41.5	40.4	43.2	42.2
1955	43.4	42.0	41.3	42.4	41.1	43.1	42.9	41.9	42.5	44.3	42.0	43.6	42.5
1956	43.7	43.2	42.6	42.0	42.7	41.0	42.8	42.1	41.2	40.9	38.7	41.3	41.9
1957	39.9	39.9	39.5	40.3	40.1	41.0	42.0	42.7	41.1	40.3	43.3	45.6	41.2
1958	40.4	42.0	41.9	41.5	42.2								
Manmade fiber 2/													
1951	7.0	8.3	7.6	6.1	7.2	6.6	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.3	4.2	4.4	6.0
1952	4.3	4.9	6.6	6.0	6.2	4.9	4.4	4.8	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.9	5.1
1953	8.7	8.2	8.9	9.4	8.6	8.2	8.1	8.8	8.3	8.6	9.6	7.2	8.5
1954	8.0	10.1	10.5	11.0	9.9	9.3	9.7	11.4	11.6	11.4	11.4	10.2	10.4
1955	11.1	12.6	13.7	12.8	13.2	12.9	13.1	14.5	14.1	13.0	13.8	11.8	13.1
1956	11.9	12.7	12.8	13.2	13.9	14.0	13.5	14.2	15.1	15.2	15.8	13.6	13.8
1957	16.0	15.4	16.0	16.9	18.2	17.1	17.0	17.3	18.9	20.3	20.4	17.2	17.5
1958	19.1	19.1	20.7	20.2	19.4								
Other fiber 2/													
1951	9.4	9.5	10.0	7.9	8.3	7.9	7.7	8.4	7.5	7.4	7.6	8.0	8.3
1952	8.5	9.3	9.1	9.8	9.4	8.2	7.5	9.2	9.2	9.0	9.5	9.4	9.0
1953	4.6	5.1	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.6	5.0	5.5	5.9	6.1	7.1	6.8	5.5
1954	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.8	4.4	3.7	3.8	4.3	3.7	3.9	4.2	3.7	4.4
1955	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.0
1956	4.6	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.8	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.7	5.1	4.6	4.7
1957	4.9	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.0	4.6	4.1	4.7
1958	4.1	3.4	3.3	4.0	3.8								

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939.

2/ Prior to January 1953, manmade fibers other than rayon and acetate were included in "other fiber".

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.--Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, January-June 1949-58

System	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Worsted	59.2	67.3	63.9	52.7	58.8	53.8	48.4	50.6	49.5	46.6
Woolen	40.8	32.7	36.1	47.3	41.2	46.2	51.6	49.4	50.5	53.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 15.--Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, January-May 1949-58

Grade	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	54.6	56.9	56.1	54.4	50.1	52.5	53.3	53.5	51.2	50.5
50's and up to 60's	34.6	33.5	33.6	33.4	36.4	33.3	35.1	35.3	38.8	39.7
48's and coarser	10.8	9.6	10.3	12.2	13.5	14.2	11.6	11.2	10.0	9.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Although total use of all fiber by these mills in the spinning of carpet and rug yarn this year was down from last year, the drop was concentrated almost entirely in wool. Their use of other fiber during January-May was down less than half a million pounds or 2 percent. Consequently, wool's share of the total dropped from 73 percent last year to 64 percent this year (table 16).

Percentagewise, the decline for rayon and acetate, 46 percent, was even greater than that for wool and its share dropped from 14 percent during January-May last year to only 10 percent this year. But over 4 times as much noncellulosic manmade fiber was used this year, and its share of the total increased from 2 percent last year to 13 percent this year. The net result was an increase of 11 percent in use of manmade fiber with its share of total fiber use increasing from 16 to 23 percent even though price quotations for carpet wool have been much lower relative to prices of manmade fiber. Use of reused and reprocessed wool and other fiber dropped about 20 percent.

The drop in woolen spinning of carpet yarn was accompanied by a decline in output of woven floor coverings (table 17). During the first 4 months of this year, 17 million square yards of carpets and rugs were woven, down 25 percent from last year.

The Carpet Institute, Inc., estimates that production of woven carpets and rugs came to 56 million yards last year, almost 8 million yards less than the previous year. But apparently production of tufted carpets and rugs continued to increase. Manufacturers' shipments last year amounted to 100 million square yards, up 17 million yards from 1956 (table 18). Practically all of the increase was in carpets and rugs 4' x 6' or larger. The quantity of wool yarn used in tufting was more than twice that of 1956 so that its share of the total quantity of yarn used increased from 4 percent in 1956 to 7 percent last year (table 19).

Woolen and Worsted Fabric Production Down Substantially From Early Last Year

The decline in textile activity is also reflected in output of woolen and worsted fabric. During the first quarter of this year production of woolen and worsted woven goods (except felt) principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight amounted to 61 million finished linear years, 17 percent below early 1957 (table 20). During the same months, output of woven felt amounted to 2.1 million pounds, 15 percent below last year. The declines this year, the second in a row following increases during both 1955 and 1956, reflect the general textile recession which started during 1956. Aggregate production of woolen and worsted, cotton, manmade, and silk broadwoven fabrics was down 6 percent from early 1957, with declines for all types except rayon and acetate.

Output of woolen and worsted apparel fabric early this year came to 58.5 million yards, down 17 percent from last year, 26 percent below 1956 and the lowest since 1954. Production of men's and boys' wear fabric was down 22 percent, and output of women's and children's wear fabric was 10 percent lower than last year.

Table 16.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1950 to date

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.6
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.9
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	72.8	74.8	76.1	74.9	74.2	71.5	69.7	71.3	73.2	69.7	71.7	71.7	72.8
1955	67.3	67.3	67.1	68.5	72.6	68.5	69.2	70.3	71.9	70.9	70.8	73.1	69.8
1956	73.6	74.0	76.2	71.8	73.7	74.8	71.6	72.4	70.5	71.3	67.1	68.7	72.2
1957	72.5	74.3	72.1	73.0	69.9	68.5	70.4	69.0	69.8	69.4	66.1	65.8	70.5
1958	65.1	63.7	66.4	60.0	61.3								
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	2.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	3.0	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.1
1955	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.4	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9
1956	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.9	1.6	2.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.5
1957	1.0	.9	1.0	.9	1.0	1.0	1.3	.7	.9	.9	1.1	.9	1.0
1958	.9	.7	.9	.9	1.2								
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	6.8
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.4	7.5	8.3	6.8	7.4	9.1	7.9	8.9	9.1	7.7	7.7	8.1	8.0
1955	9.1	8.6	9.8	7.9	6.2	6.3	6.9	6.2	7.7	8.0	7.8	8.2	7.8
1956	7.1	7.0	6.4	8.3	8.3	6.2	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.9	8.6	9.7	7.9
1957	9.7	8.1	9.3	10.2	8.0	8.5	10.7	10.1	9.6	11.2	10.0	9.7	9.6
1958	8.1	9.4	9.8	12.5	12.7								
Man-made fiber 2/													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.8	14.8	12.5	14.9	15.3	16.6	19.1	17.3	15.3	18.2	17.4	17.4	16.2
1955	21.4	21.7	20.6	20.7	18.5	22.1	19.5	20.4	16.6	17.6	18.0	15.9	19.3
1956	16.9	16.4	14.4	17.0	15.0	16.4	16.2	16.6	18.1	17.3	21.8	19.5	17.2
1957	15.8	15.0	16.2	13.7	17.8	19.1	16.0	18.2	18.6	17.4	21.5	22.0	17.2
1958	24.8	24.3	21.1	24.5	23.0								
Other fiber 2/													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.1
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	.9	.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	.9	1.1	1.1
1954	.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	.8	.6	.3	.8	.3	1.9	1.0	.8	.9
1955	.8	.8	.8	.9	.8	1.0	2.0	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.5	.9	1.2
1956	.7	.8	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.2
1957	1.0	1.7	1.4	2.2	3.3	2.9	1.6	2.0	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.7
1958	1.1	1.9	1.8	2.1	1.8								

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939.
2/ Prior to January 1953, synthetics other than rayon and acetate were included with "other fibers."

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 17.--Production of woven carpets and rugs, United States, by months, 1946-58

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards
1946	3,678	3,499	4,003	4,552	4,322	4,387	3,734	4,375	4,479	5,611	4,550	4,814	52,004
1947	5,142	4,769	5,340	6,413	5,802	6,272	5,084	5,804	5,929	7,449	6,279	6,962	71,245
1948	6,828	7,136	8,718	7,699	7,486	8,648	4,881	7,285	8,335	7,794	7,102	7,728	89,640
1949	7,200	6,890	8,201	6,443	5,610	5,421	2,776	5,329	6,048	6,092	6,018	6,696	72,724
1950	6,635	6,802	8,073	7,087	6,998	8,129	4,061	7,153	7,689	7,942	8,024	7,148	85,741
1951	7,544	7,297	7,286	6,819	5,411	4,858	1,849	3,633	3,615	4,436	3,976	3,917	60,641
1952	5,252	4,973	5,445	5,861	5,051	3,057	2,512	4,562	5,775	7,254	5,904	6,442	62,088
1953	6,552	6,589	7,227	6,929	5,436	5,388	3,111	5,017	5,447	5,867	4,353	4,921	66,837
1954	4,759	5,076	5,663	5,024	4,264	4,344	2,374	4,565	5,169	5,093	4,101	4,883	55,315
1955	4,894	4,933	5,914	5,346	4,684	5,301	2,742	4,923	5,608	5,601	5,063	5,536	60,545
1956	5,362	5,847	5,968	5,575	5,473	4,886	3,111	5,868	5,817	5,952	5,141	4,967	63,967
1957	5,898	5,477	5,685	5,595	5,763	3,831	3,181	4,461	4,700	5,058	3,676	4,031	56,357
1958	4,285	4,164	4,354	4,099									

From Carpet Institute, Incorporated.

Table 18.--Production and manufacturers' shipments of tufted rugs and carpeting, United States, 1951-57

Year	Production		
	Scatter rugs, bathmats and sets (rugs 4 ft. x 6 ft. or smaller)	Rugs and carpeting, including roll goods (rugs larger than 4 ft. x 6 ft.)	Total
	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards
1951	15,070	6,076	21,146
1952	19,146	10,420	29,566
1953			
January-June	10,587	6,976	17,563
	Manufacturers' shipments		
1953			
July-December	12,224	9,309	21,533
1954	24,891	29,520	54,411
1955	30,477	47,345	77,822
1956	28,949	54,228	83,177
1957	31,082	69,093	100,175

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M 15S, Bureau of the Census.

Table 19.--Yarns consumed in the manufacture of tufted products, United States 1951-57

Yarn	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Cotton	54.6	74.3	86.3	92.4	86.8	64.4	64.5
Rayon and acetate	1.0	2.2	7.9	31.4	73.1	88.4	106.4
Wool	).3	).6	).4	)3.3	)12.3	6.8	14.8
Other	)	)	)	)	)	12.2	17.6
Total	55.9	77.1	94.6	127.1	172.2	171.8	203.3

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M 15S, Bureau of the Census.

Table 20.--Production of woolen and worsted woven goods, United States, January-March 1954-58 1/

Fabric	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	Percentage change 1958 from 1957
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	63,711	75,449	83,120	73,787	61,170	-17.1
Apparel	56,318	69,618	78,327	70,701	58,460	-17.3
Government orders	341	848	573	1,700	372	-78.1
Other than Government orders	55,977	68,770	77,754	69,001	58,088	-15.8
Men's and boys'	3/27,915	3/36,746	3/38,610	3/34,836	3/27,270	-21.7
Woolen	10,774	18,799	16,133	17,720	12,327	-30.4
Worsted	15,659	16,315	19,136	14,830	13,559	-8.6
Women's and children's	3/28,062	3/32,024	3/39,144	3/34,165	3/30,818	-9.8
Woolen	21,647	26,111	30,633	27,936	25,604	-8.4
Worsted	4,122	3,512	4,773	3,163	2,208	-30.2
Non-apparel	7,393	5,831	4,793	3,086	2,710	-12.2
Blanketing	4,129	3,201	2,371	2,277	2,038	-10.5
Government orders	2/	192	---	---	---	---
Other than Government orders	2/	3,009	2,371	---	---	---
Other non-apparel	3,264	2,630	2,422	809	672	-16.9
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent
Woven felt	2,599	2,671	2,997	2,501	2,128	-14.9

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width. 2/ Not available. 3/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Production of non-apparel fabric continued the decline of the past several years. The yardage finished during the first quarter was 12 percent less than last year. Output of blanketing was down 11 percent and of other non-apparel fabric, mostly transportation upholstery, was down 17 percent.

Cuttings of Men's Tailored Clothing Substantially Below Last Year

The textile recession has been accompanied by reduced activity at the cutting level. During January-June cuttings of all items of men's tailored clothing were well below both early 1956 and early 1957 (table 21). Production of suits was down 21 percent from last year, with 26 percent fewer regular-weight suits and 9 percent fewer summer-weight suits produced. Cuttings of separate dress and sport trousers were down 7 percent. The number of overcoats and topcoats produced was 9 percent below last year.

Cuttings of Women's Outerwear Also Below Early Last Year

Early this year, production of all major women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments except blouses was below last year (table 23). Production of blouses was about the same as last year, but declines for the other items ranged from 3 percent for skirts to 10 percent for suits.

Table 21.--Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, January-June 1956-58

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change 1958 from	
	1956 (26 weeks)	1957 (26 weeks)	1958 (26 weeks)	1956	1957
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	11,068	11,242	8,887	-19.7	-21.0
Regular-weight	7,393	7,716	5,686	-23.1	-26.3
Summer-weight	3,675	3,526	3,201	-12.9	-9.2
50 percent or more wool	1,425	1,477	1,290	-9.5	-12.7
Man-made fibers	2,106	1,870	1,799	-14.6	-3.8
Other	144	179	112	-22.2	-37.4
Separate dress and sport trousers	40,884	32,616	30,372	-25.7	-6.9
50 percent or more wool	8,784	10,620	5,838	-33.5	-45.0
Other	32,100	21,996	24,534	-23.6	+11.5
Dress and sport coats	---	---	3,976	---	---
Overcoats and topcoats	3,125	1,962	1,782	-43.0	-9.2

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 22.--Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1956-58

Type of garment	1956	1957	1958
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Summer-weight suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	38.8	41.9	40.3
Man-made fibers	57.3	53.0	56.2
Other	3.9	5.1	3.5
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	21.5	32.6	19.2
Other	78.5	67.4	80.8

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 23.--Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1956-58

Type of garment	1956	1957	1958	Percentage change 1958 from 1957
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	87,587	85,936	78,666	-8.5
Rayon and acetate	37,787	41,655	38,904	-6.6
Other	49,800	44,281	39,762	-10.2
Skirts	41,280	45,420	43,992	-3.2
Rayon and acetate	7,356	8,016	6,456	-19.5
Other	33,924	37,404	37,536	+.4
Suits	6,491	5,825	5,214	-10.5
Rayon and acetate	2,977	2,372	1,568	-33.9
Other	3,514	3,453	3,646	+5.6
Coats	10,966	11,625	10,846	-6.7
Blouses	80,556	87,492	87,660	+.2
Cotton	59,796	59,016	67,452	+14.3
Other	20,760	28,476	20,208	-29.0

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M23H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 24.--Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1956-58

Type of garment	1956	1957	1958
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	43.1	48.5	49.5
Other	56.9	51.5	50.5
Skirts	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	17.8	17.6	14.7
Other	82.2	82.4	85.3
Suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	45.9	40.7	30.1
Other	54.1	59.3	69.9
Blouses	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	74.2	67.5	76.9
Other	25.8	32.5	23.1

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M23H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 25.--Wool used by the military forces: Clean basis, United States, by quarters, July-September 1954 to date 1/

Year and quarter	Quantity
	1,000 pounds
1954	
July-September	291
October-December	321
1955	
January-March	424
April-June	3,321
July-September	2,835
October-December	1,932
Total	8,512
1956	
January-March	1,231
April-June	629
July-September	958
October-December	2,078
Total	4,896
1957	
January-March	4,445
April-June	1,715
July-September	3,174
October-December	1,370
Total	10,704
1958	
January-March	1,929
April-June	1,816

1/ This series was discussed in "Deliveries of Wool Textile Products to the Military Forces" in The Wool Situation, August 13, 1956, pp. 30-31.

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Title	Page
	Statistical Summary Part I Prices	2
	Statistical Summary Part II Supplies and Mill Activity	4
1	Prices per pound of combing wool, clean basis (Bradford yield), at Australian auctions, by Bradford grades, 1955 to date	7
2	Price per pound of fleece wools, clean basis (Bradford yield), at the London auctions, by Bradford grades, 1956 to date	8
3	Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended August 1, 1958 with comparisons	10
4	Payments under the National Wool Act of 1954	12
5	Production of wool, grease basis, in specified countries and world, 1952 to date	13
6	Number of sheep and lambs shorn, weight per fleece, shorn wool production, and price per pound received by farmers, United States, 1940-58	15
7	Number of stock sheep, number of sheep shorn, and shorn wool production, Native or fleece wool States and Western sheep States, 1949 to date	16
8	Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58 through May	18
9	Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1950 to date	19
10	Average weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950 to date	20
11	Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed on the worsted system, United States, by months, 1951 to date	21
12	Percentage distribution of production of top by fiber content, United States, by months, 1956 to date	22
13	Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed for the spinning of yarn (except carpet) on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1951 to date	23

LIST OF TABLES - Continued

Table	Title	Page
14	Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, January-June 1949-58	24
15	Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, January-May 1949-58	24
16	Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1950 to date	26
17	Production of woven carpets and rugs, United States, by months, 1946-58	27
18	Production and manufacturers' shipments of tufted rugs and carpeting, United States, 1951-57	28
19	Yarns consumed in the manufacture of tufted products, United States, 1951-57	28
20	Production of woolen and worsted woven goods, United States, January-March 1954-58	29
21	Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, January-June 1956-58	31
22	Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1956-58	31
23	Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1956-58	32
24	Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1956-58	32
25	Wool used by the military forces: Clean basis, United States, by quarters, July-September 1954 to date	33

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

NOTICE

If you no longer need this publication, check here ☐ return this sheet, and your name will be dropped from the mailing list.

If your address should be changed, write the new address on this sheet and return the whole sheet to:

Administrative Services Division (ML)
Agricultural Marketing Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

The Wool Situation is published four times a year. The next issue is scheduled for release on October 31.